

TOP SECRET

4 May 1949

MEMORANDUM FOR []

SUBJECT: (a) Proposed Albanian operation.
(b) Edgar M. Church, c/o Sherman, Sterling & Wright,
20 Exchange Place, New York City (residence:
164 E. 72nd St., New York City).

1. Pursuant to our conversation of this morning, I am submitting to you herewith the information which I promised you about the subject individual. Mr. Church is an attorney associated with a well known New York law firm, a Yale graduate and apparently interested in doing his bit in whatever way he can to help out in the present situation. He is not seeking employment with CIA or any other governmental agency but would be overjoyed at the prospect of being able to make some kind of contribution of time and effort. He was brought in to see me by Mr. Prescott Childs at the suggestion of Admiral Hillenkoetter, who had said to Childs after hearing Mr. Church's story that he would like for OPC and OSO to talk to him. Actually I do not believe that Mr. Church has talked to the OSO people but I have undertaken to mention his name to [] giving to [] certain information, other than that set forth below, which may conceivably be of interest to OSO.

2. Mr. Church claims to be well and favorably connected with King Zog of Albania. He says that he is King Zog's attorney and that he recently spent a week with Zog and his Queen in Alexandria. The Queen is a cousin of Church's wife and according to Church, his mother-in-law actually arranged the marriage between Zog and his Queen. Zog is said to be very grateful for this and has vehemently denied to Church that he or his Queen have any intention of parting company. Zog has shown his confidence in Church by entrusting to him the handling of \$120,000, which Church is supposed to place in trust for the benefit of the Queen and the child. Church believes that Zog has great confidence in him and that he would be amenable to his suggestions and advice.

3. During the Alexandria visit, Church and Zog had many conversations of a "political" nature. Zog disclosed to Church that his one desire and hope is to participate in an Albanian uprising to overthrow the present communist regime. He says that he wants to go back and lead the guerrilla troops and he has reason to believe that he would be able to raise a substantial amount of support in Albania. While Church was in Alexandria, an

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individual, who he described as Georges Gog--a tough Albanian chieftain, made his way out of Albania and came to see Zog bearing a message that with Zog's leadership the country could be taken by storm. Zog claims to be on terms of very close friendship with Farouk of Egypt, Ibn Sai Aud of Saudi Arabia and other arab leaders and chieftains. He told Church that these individuals had offered to give Zog all manner of support, including men and facilities when, as and if Zog would like to go into Albania. (If Zog represented his relationship with Farouk and Ibn SaiAud accurately, this would provide the answer for some of the tougher questions which were raised at our meeting this morning. For example, training grounds, recruitment facilities, etc., for the preparation of a free Albanian brigade.)

4. One of the most interesting features of Mr. Church's account was his report of statements of Zog to the effect that he was prepared to make any kind (repeat any kind) of compromise that might be necessary in order to achieve a basis of understanding and cooperation with other Albanian elements of resistance to the present communist regime. He would agree in advance to submit the issue of the form of the new government to a plebiscite and in this connection we claim to the throne. He professed ment of a truly democratic regime f and his own interests to that end.

5. Mr. Church concluded his st in any way which we might desire ar Zog to such extent and in such dire over he would be willing to underts him to do this, and he believes the (His position as attorney for Zog n but in addition to this there is th and finally, there is the fact that Aircraft and Pratt & Whitney Compan so that it could be said that he we important legal and company busines tive of these companies is Ellwood in Cairo. Ells himself might be of that he enjoys a very close relatio governments. He has recently set u overhauling base and is still in th craft replacement parts, etc. At t he is embarking upon a like program anticipated that this mission will

Ellwood Ells is I believe "Barney" Ells, tech. rep. for P & W in southwest pacific during war. A gregarious guy, plenty of wine & women, with family in states he just barely supports. Has been in financial difficulties several times recently, writing to friends here urgently for money.

Can get quite a bit more dope on him, if you want.

ATC

*Name check initials
5/10
[Signature]*

FGW:lgw
cc: []

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